(c) For 2006-07, Government has a target for providing loans to 255000 educated unemployed youth under PMRY

Setting up of Rural Industries Federation and rural markets

†3677. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Rural Industries Federation for extending help in the development of the rural industries in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are getting products of high quality produced with the help of small scale rural industries and self help groups of women in the villages and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are planning to develop rural markets in the other metropolitan cities of the country on the lines of Dilli Haat and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. In the khadi sector, artisans and workers associated with registered khadi institutions produce high quality silk, muslin, wool and cotton khadi items. Similarly, entrepreneurs and self help groups (SHGs) (the latter mostly women) in rural areas, assisted under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the Government, implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVC), produce a veriety of good quality products such as detergent powder, agarbattis, fancy articles, processed food products, ready made garments, pottery items, wooden toys, footwear, etc. Further, under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) implemented by the Government in the Ministry of Rural Development, the assisted SHGs, majority of whom are women groups, produce a variety of quality products like traditional jewellery, wooden toys, kalamkari paintings, cane and bamboo furniture, etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Government in the Ministry of Textiles through the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) implements a scheme to set up "Urban Haats" in prime locations, on the pattern of "Dilli Haat", to provide marketing outlets for products of the rural as well as urban handloom weavers and craftspersons. So far, 36 such Haats have been sanctioned under the scheme, of which five Haats have become operational at Bhubaneshwar (Orissa), Karnal (Haryana), Jammu (J&K), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

Revival of sick ARI Units

3678. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large numbers of Agro and Rural Industries set up in Ninth Plan have fallen sick;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly Andhra Pradesh and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts are being made for the revival of these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The details of growth in the value of production and sales by the village industry (VI) units as well as employment during each of the last three years are given below:

Year	Production (Rs. lakh)	Sales (Rs. lakh)	Employment (lakh persons)
2002-03	8126.30	9615.71	57.87
2003-04	9228.27	10988.17	62.58
2004-05 '	10458.89	12487.35	68.14

Some VI units do become sick. The reasons for such sickness include inadequate availlability of credit, infrastructure constraints, *viz.,* land, water, power; use of obsolete technology, inconsistent quality of products; product designs not being in keeping with market demand; difficulties in market access; lack of entrepreneurial and managerial skills; etc.